



NEWS

about
Connecticut
Women

Connecticut General Assembly
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PCSW Legislative Priorities 2005

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women provides information, research and analysis to elected officials and the public regarding issues affecting the status of women. The following are our priority issues for the 2005 legislative session.

Restore Funding for Essential Programs

Medicaid – Seek restoration of funding to provide health insurance coverage to adult parents and relative caretakers with incomes up to 185% of the federal poverty level.

State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) – Lift the cap on appropriations for this program and seek restoration of coverage for non-emergency medical transportation and other “optional” services such as vision, podiatry, and home health care.

Childcare – Restore full funding for Care4Kids program to provide quality early care and education for children and allow low-income parents to remain on the job.

Nontraditional Occupations Project and Displaced Homemakers Program – Seek restoration of funding for programs that offer job training for women.

Economic Security and Pay Equity

Balancing Work and Family - Support proposals to provide paid leave time or family leave insurance so that workers can balance work and family responsibilities.

Career Ladders – Support continued funding for Career Ladder pilots for childcare, health care, and information technology workers.

Education and Job Training for Welfare Recipients – Redirect TANF funds to provide adult basic education and job training to people in the Jobs First Employment Services program under TFA; also strengthen early assessment and services for people with barriers to employment.

Affordable Housing – Support proposals to increase the number of affordable housing units and provide programs and services to prevent homelessness.

Tax Reform to Assist Low-Income Families – Support tax proposals such as a state Earned Income Tax Credit to support the economic self-sufficiency of low-income families.

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Women and Business Development

Microenterprises – Support proposals to establish a Task Force to define the unique needs of very small businesses and find solutions that take into consideration their size and revenues.

Small Businesses - Support funding for programs that assist women-owned small businesses.

Women and Health Care

Medicaid– Support proposals to implement a family planning waiver, and to reform or revise the existing presumptive eligibility criteria.

State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) – Support proposals to institute certain due process rights and protections for enrollees.

Medical Malpractice Insurance – Support comprehensive reform proposals that protect women’s access to health care by protecting physicians, especially obstetricians and gynecologists, from unreasonable insurance premiums while also protecting patients who are injured by malpractice.

Nutrition - Support proposals that address the need for nutritional education and services in an effort to address preventable health conditions, particularly eating disorders and obesity.

Gender Appropriate Behavioral/Mental Health Services – Support proposals for pilot programs to demonstrate and evaluate “best practices” in providing gender-appropriate treatment services for women and girls with behavioral and mental health needs.

Smoking Prevention and Cessation Programs – Support proposals to appropriate funds for Medicaid coverage of smoking prevention and cessation programs.

Civil Rights

Affirmative Action Officers – Support proposals to reduce the current annual training requirement for Affirmative Action Officers.

Legal Protections for Same Gender Couples – Support measures to extend equal protections, benefits and responsibilities, including the right to civil marriage, to same gender couples.

Family Law

Health Benefits – Support measures to allow an employee to continue to cover an ex-spouse at the family coverage rate if ordered or agreed upon in a divorce agreement.

Political Participation

Election Day Registration – Support proposals to permit Election Day registration to increase voter participation.

Violence Against Women

Trafficking of Women and Children – Support continuing efforts to define trafficking in state criminal code and to increase interagency cooperation, data collection, and training.

Domestic Violence Shelters – Support proposals to provide funding to increase shelter staff.

Criminal Justice and Corrections

Reforms in Juvenile Justice Programs for Girls - Support continuing efforts to provide a continuum of community-based services designed to prevent the incarceration of juvenile status offenders and delinquents